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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 868
By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of D.K. Thomas of Blount
County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of D.K. Thomas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas was an exemplary public servant and consummate attorney who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he bravely served during World War II in the U.S. Army Air Corps; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished scholar and gentleman, D.K. Thomas was a highly regarded graduate of the University of Tennessee Law School; and

WHEREAS, while at the University of Tennessee, Mr. Thomas met and married his sweetheart, Elma Lee Thomas, who preceded him in death in 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Thomases moved to Maryville in 1949, where they raised their two sons, who, following in their father's foot steps, both became attorneys; and

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WHEREAS, he served as an attorney in Blount County for thirty-five years, earning the respect of his clients, colleagues, and the judges he appeared before for his integrity, wisdom, and unwavering commitment; and

WHEREAS, D.K. Thomas was an active member of the Maryville First Baptist Church, which he served faithfully as a Deacon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he will be greatly missed by his sons and daughters-in-law, Blount County Circuit Court Judge D. Kelly Thomas and Denise Clenney Thomas, and former Chairman of the Maryville Board of Education Oliver “Buzz” Thomas and Lisa Trammell Thomas; his grandchildren, Rachel and Sarah Thomas; his brother, Edward Benton Thomas, Jr.; and his sisters, June Thomas and Lyla Thomas; and

WHEREAS, a well-respected member of his profession, D.K. Thomas served with distinction as the President of the Blount County Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas was a valuable member of American Legion Post #13, which he astutely served as a Commander; and

WHEREAS, he left behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in his career as an attorney, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a patient and thoughtful man, D.K. Thomas was considerate of other people and always willing to help his fellow citizen; a devoted father, an esteemed professional, and a valued friend, he was beloved by all who were privileged to have known him; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of D.K. Thomas, reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character, his stalwart commitment to his family and community, and the courage and honor with which he lived.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Thomas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.